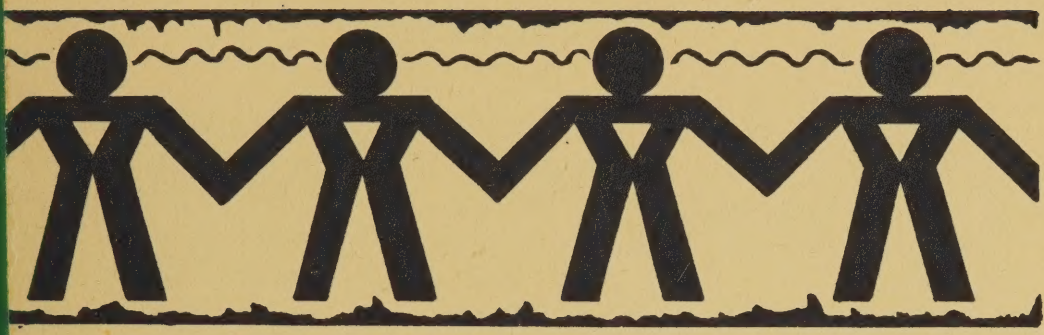

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING

OF

CANADIAN NATIVE LANGUAGES

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COVER ILLUSTRATIONS BY:

Teresa Altiman

INTRODUCTION

The Native Language Centre aims to support linguistic and teaching research in Canadian native languages. The policy of the Centre is to involve members of native communities in maintaining and preserving the native languages of Canada. Towards this goal, the Centre organizes conferences on native languages, assists in the organization of native language classes in native communities, develops curriculum materials, provides training in linguistics for non-native and native students and teachers, and supports and maintains a native language library. In addition, the administrative and scholarly personnel associated with the Centre provide a stimulating research environment for visiting scholars.

The Centre was founded in the fall of 1978 with the assistance of a three-year grant from the University's Academic Development Fund. The University of Western Ontario is located conveniently with respect to a large number of native communities with speakers of Iroquoian (Oneida, Mohawk, Cayuga) and Algonquian (Ojibwe, Delaware, Munsee) languages. In addition to a primary focus on these languages, the Centre is involved through the activities of its researchers with Inuktitut and Tsimshian.

The sections which follow describe briefly some of the Centre's past and present activities. Further information and answers to specific requests can be obtained by writing or phoning the Centre.

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RESEARCH PROJECTS

Researchers at the Centre are involved in a variety of research activities. The Centre is particularly interested in research which is of relevance to the needs of native peoples.

Algonquian

The National Museum of Man funded research for a Delaware Word List. The list is on the computer at UWO and has now been corrected in order to prepare a final version for members of the Munsee-speaking and learning communities.

Members of the Stockbridge-Munsee (Mohican) community in Wisconsin visited the Munsee-speaking communities at Muncey and Moravian Reserves during the summer of 1980. As there are no speakers of Mohican, Munsee language materials will be used in Head Start classes in the fall of 1980. The Centre has served as a consultant in this project.

Iroquoian

(1) A comprehensive stem dictionary of Oneida is being prepared by Elda Antone. It is intended for use by Oneida teachers, graduates of the adult community classes and Iroquoianist linguists.

(2) A reference grammar of Oneida will be completed by 1982 by Karin Michelson with graduates of the Native Language Teacher Training Program.

(3) Several Oneida stories (non-ceremonial texts) were recorded by Karin Michelson as told by Georgina Nicholas (April-August 1980). These stories will be worked into readers for students at the Oneida elementary school, and will also provide data for research in the areas of syntax, tense and aspect, and accent.

(4) Curriculum materials:
Oneida Reader; Oneida Language Drills for Beginners; Oneida Spelling Dictionary.

Inuktitut

A small pilot dictionary of Inuktitut spoken on Rankin Inlet is being prepared using the computer to facilitate production of different kinds of listing from a single data source (English-Inuktitut, Inuktitut-English, Reverse Inuktitut, etc.). It is planned to expand the coverage of this dictionary to include other dialects.

Native Languages and Government Policy: An Historical Examination

This research project examined government and church policies as related to decline in the use of native languages in Canada. The history of the struggle by native people to regain control over the education of their children was also studied. This research was done by Linda Tschanz.

Tsimshian

Margaret Seguin is doing field research in British Columbia during the academic year 1980-81. Her research focuses on feast speeches and involved the study of both verbal and non-verbal pattern of interaction which occur in speech-making contexts.

COURSES OFFERED

Every year, the Centre offers a course on the structure of a native language. The following courses have been offered in recent years.

Inuktitut (Spring, 1979)
Oneida (Spring, 1980)
Ojibwe (Spring, 1981)

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND SEMINARS

1. Ojibwe Language Teachers' Seminar (November 1980); Principal speakers were Lena White, Richard Rhodes, Ralph Akiwenzie and Barbara Burnaby.

2. Iroquois Language Teachers' Workshop (February 1980). This workshop was attended by teachers of Mohawk, Oneida and Cayuga from Ontario, Quebec and Wisconsin. Resource persons included Marianne Mithun (SUNY, Albany), Cliff Abbot (U. Wisconsin) and Reg Henry (Woodland Indian Cultural Educational Centre).

3. Seminar in Advanced Morphology for graduates of the Native Language Teacher Training Program (DIAND). One Saturday of each month Oneida teachers from Oneida-at the-Thames and Cayuga teachers from Ohsweken work with Karin Michelson on Iroquois word structure.

4. Minsi wauk Lenni Lenape (Delaware). A two day seminar in April 1980 was held at the Centre and at Moravian Reserve with Dr. Ives Goddard as guest speaker.

5. Amerindian Semantics Workshop (January 1980). This workshop was organized by Dr. Marion Johnson. Topics covered included the semantics of verbal derivation in Algonquian, syntax and pragmatics of grammatical relations in Inuktitut, Amerindian noun classes and tense and aspect in Iroquoian.

CENTRE LIBRARY

The Centre library has a large variety of holdings including journals, newsletters, books, audio and videotapes and films on the Inuktitut, Algonquian, Iroquoian, Athapaskan and British Columbian coastal

languages. Of special interest are the rare volumes in the collection Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York and videotaped Munsee language classes. The acquisitions operation is a continuous Centre activity, but the Centre is currently undertaking a special acquisitions project involving the repatriation (or duplication) of Canadian manuscripts presently held in the United States.

A listing of library holdings through July 1980 is available from the Centre.

PUBLICATIONS

ANTONE, Angela et al. 1981. Tekalihwathe:tha? (Oneida Spelling Dictionary).

ANTONE, Elda. to appear. Oneida Stem Dictionary.

ANTONE, Elda et al. 1979. Ji? Ni twa wv no: tv Ho nyota aka (Oneida Reader).

DOXTATOR, Mercy and Karin MICHELSON. 1980. Oneida Language Drills (preliminary version).

McKAY, Modina et al. 1980. Syllabic Exercises: Set 1 (Big Trout Lake Region).

SPALDING, Alex. 1979. Learning to Speak Inuktitut.

TSCHANZ, Linda. 1980. Native Language and Government Policy: An Historical Examination.

CENTRE PERSONNEL

Elda Antone - Research Associate, Dept. of Anthropology, Native Language Centre, B.A. (Honours) Univ. of Western Ontario (Linguistics).

Chet Creider	- Associate Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, Ph.D. Minnesota (Anthropology).
Jim Freedman	- Associate Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, Ph.D. Princeton (Anthropology).
Lee Guemple	- Associate Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, Ph.D. Chicago (Anthropology).
Karin Michelson	- Research Associate, Dept. of Anthropology, Native Language Centre, Ph.D. candidate, Harvard (Linguistics).
John Nichols	- Lecturer, Dept. of Anthropology, Ph.D. Harvard (Linguistics); (Visiting 1980/81).
Roberta Miskokomon	- Administrator/Linguistic Librarian, Native Language Centre, M.A. Antioch University (Native Munsee History).
Margaret Seguin	- Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, Ph.D. Michigan (Linguistics); (On leave 1980/81).
Linda Tschanz	- Graduate Student, Dept. of Anthropology, MLS University of Western Ontario.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Native Language Centre
Department of Anthropology
The University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario, Canada N6A 5C2

Telephone: (519) 679-6681

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